

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING

VOL. IX

MAY, 1909

NO. 8

EDITORIAL COMMENT



THE SUFFRAGE

SOME months ago we had sent us by a nurse what we considered to be a very fine paper on Suffrage for Women. We consented to publish it, stating that we would, at the same time, find some one to give an argument on the other side. Our contributor immediately withdrew her paper, not wishing it to appear in our pages on those conditions.

The Outlook, which is one of the magazines whose policy has always been against suffrage for women, published in its issue for April 3 an argument in its favor by Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, and one in opposition by Dr. Lyman Abbott, two venerable writers who have devoted their lives to educational and philanthropic work.

By permission of the editors of *The Outlook*, and of Mrs. Howe, we are reprinting these two papers in this number of our JOURNAL, commending them to our nursing organizations and to individual readers for their thoughtful and careful study. The JOURNAL's attitude on this question remains neutral. We do not believe that a subject of this nature should be made an issue in our nursing organizations, or that our pages should be used for propaganda on either side of the question, but we do believe that it is one of the vital questions of the age in which we live, and upon which every woman should be informed and should have an opinion.

As Mrs. Howe's article appeared in *The Outlook*, one paragraph was omitted, which at her request is inserted in our pages.

THE CONSUMER'S LEAGUE

THE report of the Consumer's League of New York, published in March and obtainable at the office of the League, 105 E. Twenty-second Street, is full of material and information,—much indeed of a grievous nature, but with some gleams of hopefulness. The report of the presi-

dent brings the direct connection of overwork and underpay with prostitution into a white light, without waste of words. It gives the stories of girls who had been employed at \$3 and \$5 a week in stores, and these facts are reinforced by the report of Miss M. E. Miner, the probation officer, who has recently opened a home for the protection of her charges. Her simply-told facts are heartrending; the young, untrained, helpless women and girls, some of whom are little more than children, are in no way able to protect themselves. Miss Miner says: "Where does the responsibility rest for this wreckage of human life? Organized financial interests are to blame. It is profitable to procurers and cadets that girls shall be held and bartered as slaves; it is profitable to keepers of dance halls that young girls may be attracted and ruined; . . . it is profitable to owners of factories and stores to give as low wages as possible and disregard the moral welfare of their employés."

The hopeful signs are that the child labor laws are better framed and executed, and that an interest in the welfare of working girls is steadily extending, as was shown by the International Congress of Consumers' Leagues held in Geneva last summer. At this congress resolutions were passed condemning overtime work at night.

The League needs more money for trained investigators and for the publication of bulletins and leaflets. Nurses who have opportunities for interesting their wealthy patients in humanitarian work could not do a better service than by bringing the efforts of the National and local Consumers' Leagues before them.

PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION

MASSACHUSETTS.—After the withdrawal of the nurses' bill for state registration, a substitute bill was introduced which proved to be quite as unsatisfactory to the opposition, led by Dr. Worcester, as to the nurses. As we go to press, this bill has not yet been reported out of the Ways and Means Committee, and if it is reported favorably we understand that all the forces, both the nurses and Dr. Worcester, will unite to defeat it.

The Pennsylvania bill has passed both houses of the Legislature and as we go to press is in the hands of the Governor. There is said to be not much left of the original bill but the paper it was printed on. The Pennsylvania nurses have fought a hard battle, and with whatever result they will have our sympathy.

From Michigan word comes that their bill has passed the house with fair chances of success in the senate. This bill has been very much amended but the committee having it in charge hope to be able to preserve its most vital features.

The fate of the bill in Tennessee will not be known until after our pages have closed. There has been very bitter opposition there, the most unfortunate dissension being within the nursing ranks. There seems to be little hope of success in that State this year.

South Carolina has a bill in the hands of a legislator, but with little hope of success.

The Nebraska nurses have succeeded in securing the passage of what they know to be a rather poor bill. The conditions which confronted them made it impossible for them to withdraw their measure, because a substitute bill had been introduced by a school giving a three months' training, and so strong was the sympathy of the Nebraska legislators with the promoters of the substitute bill that it would undoubtedly have been passed.

Oklahoma has been successful in passing a good bill. The opposition was from the proprietors of correspondence schools, and from a certain element which has been fighting the Pennsylvania bill, these Pennsylvania gentlemen having gone a long way from home in order to influence nursing legislation.

The Texas nurses have secured a fairly good bill with some questionable features, having an examining board composed of five nurses, but without the privilege of nomination to the governor. The whole Board is reappointed by each new governor, whose term of office is only two years.

The Wyoming nurses have secured one of the best bills which has passed any legislature of the country. It is published in this issue and speaks for itself.

Of the twelve States that have been engaged in legislation this season, six, including the defeat in committee of amendments to the West Virginia bill, have been successful. The fate of five is still undecided.

While those states that have failed have our sympathy, we feel that the season, taken as a whole, has been gloriously successful. There are now twenty-two states having laws that define nursing education.

NEW YORK STATE

Miss Hitchcock's report of the New York examinations will be read with much interest by those who are studying the educational effect of state registration. The increasing number of pupils coming forward for the examinations speaks favorably for the value in which they are held by the new graduates. The January examinations have never been as well attended as those in June, for the reason that the majority of

schools form their classes in the spring, and frequently, it is said, pupils graduating in the fall are occupied with their first cases when the January examinations take place. The proportionate increase of pupils coming forward for those examinations is shown in the following figures: January, 1907, 104; June, 1907, 229; February, 1908, 140; June, 1908, 260; February, 1909, 237.

We understand that one of the arguments used by Dr. Worcester and his coterie for the defeat of the Massachusetts bill has been that the New York law has worked hardships for the nurses and the schools and has been the cause of the great reactionary movement leading to a return to the two years' course.

The general adoption of the three years' course came before the existence of the New York statute. So far as we are able to judge, state registration has had nothing to do with this reactionary movement excepting to call the attention of certain groups of people and hospitals, whose selfish or commercial interests were threatened, to the growing importance of the nursing profession through education. If we are rightly informed, the Waltham school could have found recognition both in New York and in other states having registration if, out of the four years' course, for which the nurses pay tuition, it would give two years of hospital experience instead of seventeen months.

PROPOSED CARE FOR NURSES WHO HAVE CONTRACTED TUBERCULOSIS

THE Illinois State Association is making an effort to raise a fund to provide a shack in some tuberculosis sanatorium for the use of nurses suffering from the disease. This shack is to be in connection with some already established sanatorium, thus lessening the expense of administration. A shack large enough to accommodate six patients, equipped with bath, dressing-room, etc., has been considered. It is estimated that two thousand dollars would put this scheme well under way. If each nurse will give even one dollar, there will be no difficulty in raising the required amount.

The movement is but just under way, and the plans are not fully formed, but the general plan is to invite all nurses to contribute to the fund and to have it available for all. It is supposed that any nurse taken ill would be able to pay her own board and laundry bills, and if not, that her alumnae association may help her to that extent, but it is hoped to have so large a fund that even those without any resources may be cared for. If the members of the Illinois State Association contribute most of the money, they will be given lower rates than others

applying. Members of the committee would be glad of suggestions from other nurses; these may be sent through the officers of the State association whose addresses are to be found in the official directory.

NURSES IN THE TUBERCULOSIS CAMPAIGN

IN two different sections of the country reports have come to us of most efficient constructive work in the crusade against tuberculosis by trained nurses.

At Piqua, Ohio, Elizabeth Hatfield, superintendent of the Memorial Hospital, gave an address on the subject of tuberculosis before the Fortnightly Club which has been the means of arousing the people to active work. She dwelt on the municipal side of the question and the need of immediate action by the community.

In Bridgeport, Connecticut, a nurse in charge of the tuberculosis dispensary of the Fairfield County Antituberculosis Association, Mary Finnegan, has taken a leading part in arousing the people to combat the disease.

MECHANICAL INFLATION OF THE LUNGS

THE first operation in this country upon a human being, in which the cavity of the thorax was opened while the lungs were inflated from a chamber containing air at a greater pressure than that of the atmosphere, was performed on April 3 at the German Hospital in New York City by Dr. Willy Meyer. It is believed that the use of this apparatus will open up a wide field in surgery of the thorax. Up to this time many operations in the thorax have been difficult to perform and others impossible owing to the fact that as soon as the thoracic cavity was opened the atmospheric pressure collapsed the lungs, and breathing stopped. The apparatus used is after the models of Professor Sauerbruch.

The patient is a little boy five years old who was operated upon for empyema. After the usual incision was made, and the pus allowed to escape, the lung immediately expanded under the increased air pressure.

The patient is in excellent condition and it is hoped he will go home cured. We hope to give further reports later.

THE MERCENARY SPIRIT

PHYSICIANS who are so concerned over what they consider to be the growing commercialism of the nurse should study carefully the report which has just been issued by the Treasury Department, covering all of the items of expenditure incident to the last illness and burial of President McKinley. The following fees were paid to physicians: Dr. M. D.

Mann, \$10,000; Dr. H. Mynter, \$6,000; Dr. C. McBurney, \$5,000; Dr. Roswell Park, \$5,000; Dr. C. G. Stockton, \$1,500; Dr. E. G. Jane-way, \$1,500; Dr. H. G. Matzinger, \$750; Dr. W. W. Johnston, Dr. E. W. Lee, and Dr. H. R. Gaylord, \$500 each; Dr. N. W. Wilson, \$250; and Dr. G. McR. Hall and Dr. E. C. Mann, \$200 each.

MEETING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON NURSING

THE committee on training schools of the American Hospital Association held its second meeting in New York on March 23-24 with a full attendance. The committee called in conference the members of the education committee of the American Society of Training Schools for Nurses, and representatives of a number of educational institutions and bodies. The committee's report will be printed and distributed to the members of the association a short time before the meeting in Washington, so that the members can be familiar with its contents before it comes up for discussion. The thorough manner in which this committee is studying the whole broad subject of nursing education promises a solution of many difficult problems.

A NURSE EMPLOYED AS MATRON OF A PARK

A NURSE in Indianapolis, Miss F. E. Gerard, R.N., has offered her services to the city of Indianapolis for the summer as matron in one of its parks most frequented by children. The necessity of a nurse as matron was brought to her attention by the occurrence of several accidents to children while she was there daily for several weeks with a convalescent patient. The offer was heartily accepted by the city authorities, as she offered her services at the same salary as the ordinary matron.

THE NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

THE program for Federation day and the Associated Alumnae will be found on another page. The program of the Superintendents' Society is not yet ready, but we want to call the attention of the members of the Superintendents' Society to the fact that the subjects that are to be given prominence at that meeting are to bear principally upon the preparation of the pupils for the various fields of practical, common, every-day nursing, and that the secretary particularly requests us to invite every member to come prepared to speak freely and fully on whatever point she is especially interested in or on which she needs enlightenment. The program, which each member will receive before the meeting, will give her choice of subjects for discussion.

THE SCOPE OF THE JOURNAL

WE want to remind our readers in distant localities that the scope of the JOURNAL is national and that items regarding nursing affairs from any section are welcomed, no one portion being given preference. When news from certain cities predominates it means that nurses there have been more alert in gathering information, and others should be inspired to do as well. Because of the unusual number of announcements, bills, and official material that has come into this issue, we are obliged to take out of the body of the magazine two of our most interesting papers.

A CORRECTION

By an error, Lily Kanely, R.N., author of "A Successful Central Directory" in the April JOURNAL, was credited with being a graduate of the Garfield Memorial Hospital. She is, instead, a graduate of the Connecticut Training School, New Haven Hospital, class of 1890.

NEW FIELD FOR NURSES

A CORRESPONDENT asks if any one knows of any section in the west where the demand for trained nursing is in excess of the supply?

Please answer through the JOURNAL.

J. E. W.